



NEWS RELEASE

OFFICE OF THE UNITED STATES ATTORNEY
WESTERN DISTRICT OF MISSOURI

TODD P. GRAVES

Contact Don Ledford, Public Affairs • (816) 426-4220 • 400 East Ninth Street, Room 5510 • Kansas City, MO 64106

www.usdoj.gov/usao/mow

JULY 12, 2004

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

JOPLIN, CALIFORNIA RESIDENTS INDICTED FOR METH CONSPIRACY

SPRINGFIELD, Mo. – Todd P. Graves, United States Attorney for the Western District of Missouri, announced that five Joplin, Mo., residents and a California resident were indicted by a federal grand jury today for participating in a conspiracy to distribute methamphetamine in Jasper County, Mo.

Phyllis Hood, 49, of Fontana, Calif., and **Gaylon T. Ward**, 33, **Christian L. Parry**, 37, **Eugene E. Lundgren**, 31, **Michael W. Burrow**, 44, and **Karen D. Mitchell**, 40, all of Joplin, were charged in a 12-count indictment returned by a federal grand jury in Springfield.

Count One of the federal indictment alleges that all six of the defendants participated in a conspiracy to distribute 500 grams or more of methamphetamine in Jasper County from at least as early as August 2001, continuing until July 2004.

Counts Two through Seven of the federal indictment allege that, on separate occasions from June 6, 2002, to Dec. 8, 2003, each of the defendants wired money via Western Union in facilitating the conspiracy to distribute methamphetamine as alleged in Count One.

Count Eight of the federal indictment alleges that **Ward** was in possession of ephedrine, knowing that it would be used to manufacture methamphetamine, on Jan. 23, 2003, in Jasper County.

Count Nine of the federal indictment alleges that **Ward** was in possession of iodine, knowing it would be used to manufacture methamphetamine, on Jan. 23, 2003, in Jasper County.

Count Ten of the federal indictment alleges that **Hood** and **Ward** were in possession with intent to distribute methamphetamine on Jan. 23, 2003, in Jasper County.

Count Eleven of the federal indictment alleges that **Burrow** was in possession with intent to distribute 50 grams or more of methamphetamine on Feb. 5, 2004, in Jasper County.

Count Twelve of the federal indictment alleges that **Mitchell** distributed methamphetamine on Jan. 6, 2004, in Jasper County.

Graves cautioned that the charges contained in the indictment are simply accusations, and not evidence of guilt. Evidence supporting the charges must be presented to a federal trial jury, whose duty is to determine guilt or innocence.

This case is being prosecuted by Assistant U.S. Attorney Kimberly R. Weber Dean. It was investigated by the Drug Enforcement Administration, the Joplin, Mo., Police Department and the Missouri State Highway Patrol.

This news release, as well as additional information about the office of the United States Attorney for the Western District of Missouri, is available on-line at
www.usdoj.gov/usao/mow